

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2563

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MARTIN,
US COORDINATOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, TO MEXICO

REF: STATE 136529

1. AMBASSADOR MARTIN MADE VERY USEFUL AND TIMELY VISIT TO MEXICO JUNE 27-29 TO DISCUSS UPCOMING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH KEY GOM OFFICIALS. MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BRAUER, KEY FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS INCLUDING UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI AND WITH DIRECTOR AND TOP RESEARCH STAFF OF CIMMYT. ALL OFFICIALS CONTACTED EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN TAKING TIME TO VISIT MEXICO AND CONSULT ON US VIEWS RE CONFERENCE AGENDA AND MAIN ISSUES EXPECTED TO ARISE DURING CONFERENCE. BOTH MINISTER BRAUER AND UNDER SECRETARY GALLASTEGUI INDICATED MEXICO PLACES HIGHEST PRIORITY ON FOOD PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT AND GOM VERY INTERESTED IN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. MINISTER BRAUER HAS BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE MEXICAN DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE WHICH IS INDICATION HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT BEING GIVEN BY GOM TO CONFERENCE.

2. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN MEXICO AND US ON MAIN AGENDA ITEMS OR DIRECTION CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE. MEXICAN OFFICIALS AGREE AGENDA EMPHASIS SHOULD BE DEVELOPING STRATEGY AND PLAN TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO MEET THEIR OWN INCREASING NEEDS. ON TRADE ISSUE, MEXICANS SUPPORT DEVELOPING NATIONS POSITION THAT ACCESS TO
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DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MARKETS ESSENTIAL BUT APPEAR WILLING SOFT

PEDDLE THIS ISSUE IN REALIZATION TIME AVAILABLE DURING FOOD CONFERENCE NOT SUFFICIENT REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS COMPLEX ISSUE. MEXICO HOWEVER WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT SOME SORT OF DECLARATION RECOGNIZING TRADE ACCESS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT. ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION INPUTS (RE MACHINERY, FERTILIZERS, INSECTICIDES, CREDIT, ETC.) BY THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WILL ALSO BE SUPPORTED BY MEXICO. AMBASSADOR MARTIN AGREED THAT THE CONFERENCE MUST ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, BUT NOTED THAT MACHINERY IS MORE DIFFICULT AND HAS NOT YET BEEN EXAMINED.

3. ON PROPOSAL MADE BY MEXICO AT SECOND PRECOMM MEETING RE STOCKPILING GRAINS, FERTILIZERS AND SEMEN, THIS APPEARS MAINLY A PROPOSAL FOR FINANCING NATIONAL STOCKS OF THESE PRODUCTS RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING STOCKS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. OFFICIALS CONTACTED APPEAR IN AGREEMENT WITH US POSITION SUPPORTING BOERMA PROPOSAL OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL STOCKPILES BASED ON INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL RESERVE PROGRAMS, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND REGULAR CONSULTATIONS ON WORLD FOOD SITUATION.

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